

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A support structure for supporting an object, comprising:

an elongated member extending along a longitudinal axis and having first and second

5 sides and first and second edges;

(a first set of ribs¹) projecting from the first side of the elongated member and corresponding to a first set of depressions in the second side of the elongated member, the first set of ribs including first and second ribs² axially spaced from each other and from corresponding edges of the elongated member along an axis-transverse to the longitudinal axis;

10 and

a second set of ribs projecting from the first side of the elongated member at a location axially spaced from the first set of ribs so as to define an object receiving cradle therebetween, the second set of ribs including first and second ribs³ axially spaced from each other along a second axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the elongated member.

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2. The support structure of claim 1 wherein the first and second ribs of the second set of ribs are axially spaced from corresponding edges of the elongated member along the second axis.

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3. The support structure of claim 1 further comprising:

(a first rib⁴) projecting from the second side of the elongated member and corresponding to a first depression in the first side of the elongated member between the first and second ribs of the first set of ribs; and

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(a second rib⁵) projecting from the second side of the elongated member at a location axially spaced the first rib projecting from the second side of the elongated member so as to define a second side object receiving cradle therebetween, the second rib projecting from the second side of the elongated member corresponding to a second depression in the first side of the elongated member between the first and second ribs of the second set of ribs.

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4. The support structure of claim 3 wherein ^{NAB} (the first and second ribs) of the first set of ribs and the first and second ribs of the second set of ribs have a predetermined height and wherein the first and second ribs projecting from the second side of the elongated member have a predetermined height.

5. The support structure of claim 4 wherein the predetermined height of the first and second ribs of the first set of ribs and of the first and second ribs of the second set of ribs is generally equal to the predetermined height of the first and second ribs projecting from the second side of the elongated member.

6. The support structure of claim 1 further comprising a third set of ribs projecting from the first side of the elongated member at a location axially spaced from the second set of ribs so as to define a second object receiving cradle therebetween, the third set of ribs including first and second ribs axially spaced from each other along a third axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the elongated member.

7. The support structure of claim 1 wherein the first side of the elongated member includes a first depression formed therein between the first and second ribs of the first set of ribs, the first depression corresponding to a first rib projecting from the second side of the elongated member.

8. The support structure of claim 7 wherein the first side of the elongated member includes a second depression formed therein between the first and second ribs of the second set of ribs, the second depression corresponding to a second rib projecting from the second side of the elongated member wherein the first and second ribs projecting from the second side of the elongated member define a second side object receiving cradle therebetween.

9. A support structure for supporting an object, comprising:
an elongated member extending along a longitudinal axis and having first and second sides, first and second edges, and first and second ends, the first side of the elongated member including:

5 a first plurality of ribs projecting therefrom and being spaced between the first and second ends along a first axis, each of the first plurality of ribs being laterally spaced the first edge;

a second plurality of ribs projecting therefrom and being spaced between the first and second ends along a second axis, each of the second plurality of ribs being laterally spaced from the second edge; and

10 a plurality of depressions formed therein and being spaced between the first and second ends along a third axis disposed between the first and second axis.

10. The support structure of claim 9 wherein each of the first plurality of ribs is aligned with a corresponding rib of the second plurality of ribs along a corresponding axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the elongated member.

11. The support structure of claim 10 wherein each of the plurality of depressions is disposed between one of the first plurality of ribs and one of the second plurality of ribs.

12. The support structure of claim 9 wherein each of the plurality of depressions forms a corresponding rib projecting from the second side of the elongated member, the ribs projecting from the second side of the elongated member being spaced between the first and second ends along the third axis.

13. The support structure of claim 12 wherein the ribs projecting from the second side of the elongated includes a first rib and a second rib, the first rib and the second rib defining a second side object receiving cradle therebetween.

14. The support structure of claim 9 wherein the first plurality of ribs projecting from the first side of the elongated member includes a first rib and a second rib, the first rib and the second rib partially defining a first object receiving cradle therebetween.

15. The support structure of claim 14 wherein the second plurality of ribs projecting from the first side of the elongated member includes a first rib and a second rib, the first rib and the second rib of the second plurality of ribs partially defining the first object receiving cradle therebetween.

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16. A support structure for supporting a plurality of objects, comprising:
an elongated member having first and second sides and first and second edges; and
first and second rib sections extending from the first side of the elongated member and
being generally parallel to each other, each rib section being spaced from a corresponding edge
5 of the elongated member and including an alternating series of arches and depressions.

17. The support structure of claim 16 wherein the arches and depressions of each of the
rib sections are aligned with each other.

10 18. The support member of claim 16 further comprising a first rib section extending
from the second side of the elongated member, the first rib section extending from the second
side of the elongated member being spaced from the edges of the elongated member and
including an alternating series of arches and depressions.

15 19. The support member of claim 16 wherein the elongated member is formed from
molded pulp.